

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: (Countess) Rosie WALDEK

4380355  
ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/23/97 BY SP4 GJE/STW

1. The files of this office contain the following information concerning Countess Rosie WALDECK.
2. According to reports submitted to O.S.S. in early 1942 by a source in whom predecessor organization had expressed confidence, Countess WALDECK was born in Mannheim, Germany, on 24 June 1898 as Rosie GOLDSCHMIDT, the daughter of a Jewish banker who was the principal partner in the firm of Goldschmidt and Marx of Mannheim. She received a Ph D in Nationalökonomie at one of the German Universities. Source met her in the early 1920's in Berlin through BREITSCHEID of the Reichstag. At that time she was married to a Dr. GRAEFINBERG, reputedly a well known German gynecologist. Subject was divorced from GRAEFINBERG in about 1925 and went to Paris where she made many friends. (Another source reported that she started her journalistic career in Paris, writing articles for Franz von PAPEN's daily paper Germania.) She later returned to Berlin and became an intimate friend of Dr. Karl RITTER, who was former chief of the Economics Division of the German Foreign Office, member of the German Diplomatic Corps in South America, and a prominent figure in the Nazi Party. Several reports indicate that she had an intimate personal relationship with RITTER for many years, and she was, according to one source, deeply in love with him.
3. Somewhat later the Countess married Franz ULLSTEIN of the well known Ullstein publishing house. Her relations with RITTER allegedly continued in spite of her marriage, and in due time she was divorced from ULLSTEIN. Countess WALDECK reportedly first came to the United States about 1930, and she intimated that she had come under the patronage of Otto KAHN. Later she returned to Europe and married the Hungarian Count de WALDECK. She was later divorced from him because, it was alleged, it was inconvenient for him to have a Jewish wife. In the United States Rosie WALDECK served for a while as research assistant to Dorothy THOMPSON. She made several voyages to Germany, and in 1941 was in Bucharest, Rumania, where she gathered material for her book, Athene Palace, which reportedly deals with Nazi espionage and intrigue in the Balkans. While it was believed that she received some royalties from this book, the Countess reportedly found it convenient to live at the Hotel Gladstone, 114-122 East 52nd Street, New York City, as she did not always have to pay her bill there on time. It was reported that the Gladstone was a center for Germans, and to have been, at one time or another, a meeting place for the Gestapo.
4. According to Source, Countess WALDECK was well acquainted with officers of the War Department in Washington; she pretended to be consulted by them frequently as an expert on the Balkans. Particular friends were said to be Colonel Truman SMITH, formerly Military Attache in Berlin, and

65-2124-228

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1946	
FBI - NEW YORK	

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: JUN 2000

Lt. Colonel John P. RATAY, formerly Military Attache in Bucharest. Another particular friend was Paul PALMER who was described as a scout for Reader's Digest magazine. Countess WALDECK reportedly stated to Source that she obtained a visa to leave Rumania only after the arrival there of Dr. CLAUDIUS. She was quite frank in her conversations with Source about her friendly relations with numerous important Germans. She reportedly stopped in Vichy on her way to the United States from Rumania, and while there was in touch with many Vichy French, notably Pierre DOMINIQUE and Andre de MAISON.

5. According to information contained in the files of predecessor organization, Countess WALDECK, in an interview with an O.S.S. contact in October 1942, expressed "defeatist" sentiments upon her return to the United States from Europe. She was said to be friendly with Lawrence DENNIS, well known American isolationist, and was in communication with Otto STRASSER who expressed great interest in her book Meet Mr. Blank. This book reportedly discussed potential leaders of the new Germany and caused some repercussion in German refugee circles. Her address in December 1943 was given as the Gladstone Hotel.

6. O.S.S. files contain a report concerning Subject, dated 10 December 1942, apparently submitted by a source who had known the Countess in Rumania. According to this source, Countess WALDECK was useful to the Germans. The Nazis allegedly gave her passes to ride on the Zeppelin. After the Germans invaded Rumania and the Jews had been "encouraged" to leave the country, Countess WALDECK stayed on at the Hotel Athene in Bucharest and remained months after the Germans had established themselves there. Source met Subject in Bucharest in late 1940 and stated that Subject was then very pro-Nazi, making statements to the effect that HITLER was going to win the war, etc. Source stated that Subject was very friendly with Dr. CLAUDIUS, one of the chief Nazi economic negotiators in Rumania. Source described the book Athene Palace as a distortion of the facts to make the Nazi invasion of Rumania appear less brutal than it was. Source expressed surprise that Countess WALDECK was able to get along so well with the Germans, socially or otherwise, in view of the fact that she was of Jewish origin.

7. Sometime in late 1942, it was reported, Countess WALDECK received permission to visit the German General Franz von RAVENSTEIN who was interned at Camp #30, Bowmanville, Canada. The British interfered in time to ask the Canadian authorities to make her sign a statement wherein she promised not to publish anything about this interview; she reportedly had a contract with the Saturday Evening Post. (In July 1944 it was reliably reported that Subject had been on the British Security Authorities black list.) It was said that there was a veiled intimation that O.S.S. was behind this visit, but it is clear from the reports that Subject had no such backing. Checks made with O.W.I. and other U.S. agencies reflected that she was not employed with those agencies. She attempted to contact O.S.S. prior to her departure to Canada, but received no answer. It was subsequently reported that while in Canada she falsely purported to be representing the U.S.

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

Government. In early 1943 she was collecting material for another book entitled After Hitler-Who? According to one source, this could have been a clever way for the Nazis to gather information about German refugees and anti-Nazis in Germany. According to censorship intercepts, Subject wrote to General Major Hans (sic) von RAVENSTHIN in September 1943 and stated that the German coup (sic) in Italy will discourage the Balkan politicians from "trying to do a BADOGLIO". She also reportedly compared HITLER's speech with Napoleon's Bulletin No. 29 after the debacle of the Russian campaign.

8. In October 1943 information was received from a source, now unknown, which alleged that Countess WALLECKA was then in league with Count Von Der SCHULLENBURG (who was later implicated in the July 1944 plot against HITLER) and his group of German Generals who were trying to make a deal with the Russians. The report added that Subject was an ardent supporter of high German Generals involved and should be watched. A report of May 1945 stated that Subject was about to go overseas for the War Department, and that she was then lecturing to American Military Government men at the University of Virginia.

9.

F(b)(1)  
F(b)(3)  
(S)

Records show that Subject was never employed by or connected with the O.S.S., although she had attempted to establish connections with that organization, as indicated in paragraph 7 above.

10. In the 31 December 1951 issue of The Freeman, Colonel Truman SMITH reviewed Subject's book Europe Between the Acts, which was published in early 1951. Colonel SMITH, who met Subject in 1942 while he was on duty with the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department General Staff, stated that "the Countess possessed an uncanny flair for prophesying correctly the course of things to come, especially in Germany...no matter how she had acquired her special seer-like gifts, she placed them in the war years at the disposal of our Army without asking in return either remuneration or, indeed, even personal recognition". Our files reflect nothing which confirms this statement. Colonel SMITH was, however, enthusiastically impressed with the book and with Subject's analysis of world politics.

11. The 30 November 1953 issue of "The New Leader" carried an article by Rosie G. WALLECK, datelined Rome, entitled "Why Blame Mrs. Luce?" in which the author discusses the events leading up to the partition of the Trieste territory.

~~SECRET~~

- 4 -

12. If you have not already done so, we suggest that you check with the Department of State, for additional information on Subject in their files.

~~SECRET~~  
APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: JUN 2000